

III. Remarks

Claims 1-29 were originally filed in the present application. Claims 23 and 24 were subsequently cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Prior to continuing examination pursuant to the RCE filed concurrently herewith, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1, 6-9, 11 and 16-18 be amended as set forth above. However, no claims are presently added or cancelled. Consequently, claims 1-22 and 25-29 remain pending in the present application.

Favorable consideration and an early indication of the allowability of the claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney would expedite consideration, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: October 21, 2005

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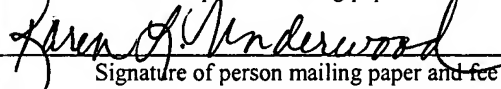
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